

October 3, 1960

Dr. Peter H. A. Sneath
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London N.W. 7
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Dear Peter:

Thanks for the manuscript and your note. The publication of my Nice paper is still in press for the Proceedings; since you have the Science, why bother about this other reference? I think the same applies to the New Scientist précis of the same paper.

I did enjoy reading your paper very much - you did amplify some points that bear further discussion and you have also dug up some useful references that I'm glad to have. According to my own recollection, the radio program on "War of the World" was on 30 October but you should be able to check this point. I remember the occasion very well, having heard the program myself, and being very much puzzled by the reassurances that were broadcast later on that it really was just a fiction drama. The tensions connected with the Munich crisis must have had a great deal to do with the focal hysteria. As I recall, there was quite an interesting book written about the program entitled "War of the Worlds" by a pair of Princeton psychologists but I don't recall their names.

About the observations with periodat, one might have to argue that periodated male receptors are not really destroyed but converted into a form that actively prevents effective conjugation. I rather doubt there is much more one can do with this without an independent assay for the receptor substance. We still have not much more than good intentions to report with regard to the serological studies. But I will have to get Gus Nossal to help work this up.

I should have returned a completed manuscript on the periodat paper long since - I can assure you that it is not apathy but a technical problem - the pile of papers on my desk - that has kept me from finishing the job. I will do my best to get to it as soon as possible.

Is this symposium on the Biology of Space Travel to be published?

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics